

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** Meningococcal disease manifests most commonly as meningitis and/or meningococemia that may progress rapidly to purpura fulminans, shock, and death. However, other manifestations might be observed.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis or laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site (such as blood, CSF, or less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid).
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES URGENT NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT **IMMEDIATELY** upon recognition of a case or suspected case in a period not greater than within 24 hours. Public health intervention expected. If health department personnel cannot be contacted directly, notification shall be made by electronic submission or by telephone to the emergency number of the Division of Epidemiology & health Planning: **1-888-973-7678**.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 2. National Bacterial Meningitis and Bacteremia Case Report - CDC 52.15N REV. 02-93.
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Investigation of known and suspected contacts.
 - Chemoprophylaxis or observation of close contacts (See Reference 3, p. 6-7).
 - For each case-patient, ensure that an isolate of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site be forwarded to the Kentucky Public Health Laboratory for serogrouping. Isolates should be forwarded even if the referring laboratory has already determined the serogroup because this will ensure that the isolates are available for further genetic testing should an outbreak investigation become necessary.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH: 502-564-3418.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 340-345.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. Meningococcal Infections. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: 396-401.
3. Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2000; Vol. 49 (No. RR-7): 1-10.